

12. THE GOLIATH HERON (*ARDEA GOLIATH*) IN SIND, PAKISTAN

You may be interested to know that I had the opportunity of seeing the Goliath Heron (*Ardea goliath*) at Haleji (Sind) on 21st January. The bird was identified by myself and two other naturalists, Dr & Mrs Graefe,

of the Osterreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften Institut für Vergleichende Verhaltensforschung, Austria who have had much to do with herons and who were with me on this visit.

GENERAL MANAGER,
PAKISTAN BURMAH SHELL,
POST BOX 4712,
KARACHI 2,
January 27, 1976.

M. NASER-UD-DEEN KHAN

13. THE SOUTHERN LIMITS OF THE HIMALAYAN CUCKOO
CUCULUS SATURATUS SATURATUS (BLYTH)

The Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus saturatus* (Blyth, type locality Nepal) has been accepted in Indian ornithological literature as a Himalayan species with some movements into the plains of northern India (Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Assam).

In Sharpe's CATALOGUE OF BIRDS IN BRITISH MUSEUM (1891), Vol. 19, p. 254, Shelly listed a specimen obtained by J. Scully at Sulapur. Dr. D. R. Wells in a note in this *Journal* (1972 69:179-182) has changed the place to Sholapur in Maharashtra, thus extending the accepted range of the species to south of latitude 18°N.

I would not accept this alteration for the following reasons:-

(1) Scully's ornithological collections were made in Yarkand, Nepal, Gilgit, and the Himalayan regions. There is no evidence of his having collected in peninsular India. The entry in the CATALOGUE bears the date 18th May, but in 1973 it was not possible to trace the specimen at British Museum (Natural Hist-

ory) to determine the year of collection and then ascertain the area by comparison with other specimens collected on nearby dates.

(2) Blanford (1895, Fauna 3:208, footnote) mentions Davison's statement (*Stray Feathers* 10, p. 359) that he *heard* it in the Wynaad in South India, and refers to an earlier note (*P.Z.S.* 1893, p. 317-18) by him (Blanford) in which he has gone into the matter in detail and decided that there is no evidence of the Himalayan Cuckoo being found in India south of latitude 26°N.

(3) The specimens in Sharpe's CATALOGUE are not arranged in the order of accession but mostly geographically, commencing in the north-west extending along the Himalayas and then southwards into peninsular India, Ceylon, Burma and Malaya. The Sulapur specimen is the second in the list being preceded by one from Jodhpur, Rajasthan, and followed by others from Kashmir, Kotegarh, Simla, Naini Tal, U.P., and Nepal. This does suggest a northern bird.

(4) I have gone through 22 volumes of Sharpe's CATALOGUE (Vol. 1 is not available) and have been unable to find any specimen obtained by Scully except in the above-mentioned places, nor does the place named "Sulapur" occur anywhere again. Indian place names as pronounced and written in English show wide diversity and have often undergone startling changes. The similarity between Sulapur and Sholapur (recently changed by Government to Solapur) unsupported by any other evidence is insufficient to accept the extension of the range of a species over 8 degrees of latitude. The former may well be another version of Sitapur or Sultanpur, both in U.P.

A list of Indian Post and Telegraph offices (c 1940) refers to 20 Sultanpurs scattered

75, ABDUL REHMAN STREET,
BOMBAY 400 003,
July 7, 1976.

over India, the southernmost being as far south as Berar. Against another it is also said—"old name for Kulu".

I had drawn Dr. Wells's attention to these difficulties and he suggested that I should make the correction myself. A draft note was prepared but the briefcase containing it was stolen from my car and I have shirked going over the work again. However, as this extension of range is quoted without reservation by Desfayes (*JBNHS* 71:146), I am prompted to try and stem the acceptance of the additional range of the species until further evidence is available.

Mr. J. S. Serrao, Librarian at Bombay Natural History Society, helped me with the references.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

14. PERIOD OF INCUBATION IN BRAHMINY MYNA, *STURNUS PAGODARUM* (GMELIN)

So far as known to us the incubation period of this species is not recorded in the existing ornithological literature. Recently we had an opportunity to observe five nests of Brahminy Myna, constructed in artificial nest boxes. The

wooden, letter-box shaped nest boxes of the size 15 × 15 × 22 cm, with entrance holes of 4 cm, were nailed on trees at an approximate height of 10 m, in the compound of the Northern Regional Station of the ZSI. Out of a

TABLE
INCUBATION PERIOD IN *Sturnus pagodarum* (GMELIN)

Nest No.	Egg No.	Laid on	Hatched on	Time taken in days
I	1	20-v-76	did not hatch	—
	2	21-v-76	2-vi-76	12
	3	22-v-76	3-vi-76	12
	4	23-v-76	4-vi-76	12
II	1	22-v-76	5-vi-76	14
	2	23-v-76	5-vi-76	13
	3	24-v-76	5-vi-76	12
	4	25-v-76	6-vi-76	12
	5	26-v-76	7-vi-76	12